

President nominates next SECAF

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate James Roche to serve as the next secretary of the Air Force.

Roche is currently corporate vice president and president of the Electric Sensors and Systems Sector of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. He has served with Northrop Grumman Corporation since 1984 in a variety of posts.

Before joining the private sector, Roche served as democratic staff director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services from 1983 to 1984, and served at the State Department as principal deputy director of the policy planning staff.

He was a senior professional staff member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence from 1979 to 1981, and served as assistant director of the office of net assessment in the office of the secretary of defense from 1975 to 1979.

Roche is a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, received an undergraduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a master's degree from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and a doctorate from Harvard Graduate School of Business.



Courtesy photo

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NCOs benefit from summer pay raise

WASHINGTON — Some mid-level noncommissioned officers will see an increase in their pay July 1 thanks to the fiscal 2001 National Defense Authorization Act.

Unlike last year's July 1 pay table reform where 75 percent of military members saw a raise, this year's reform targets E-5s to E-7s with six to 26 years of service.

The raise rewards promotion over longevity and addresses some of the concerns expressed by Department of Defense and congressional leaders about retention trends, said Maj. Shannon Averill, Air Force pay and allowances chief.

"This is the initial step to fixing the problem," she said. "It's also a step toward closing the gap between private-

sector civilian wages and military wages."

The Jan. 1 pay raise for 2002, in keeping with the economic consumer index, will be a minimum of 4.6 percent.

For more information on pay increases or to see a pay chart, visit the DOD Military Pay and Benefits Web site.

New allowance gives airmen more money for food

WASHINGTON — Some military families may have a new way of putting food on their tables.

Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2001, qualifying servicemembers can receive up to \$500 a month with the new family subsistence supplemental allowance.

The program was designed to help families currently on food stamps, said Maj. Shannon Averill, chief of Air Force pay and allowances. Although this allowance does target those families, all total force members may apply.

"Some people who aren't on food stamps will qualify," she said. "Some people who currently receive food stamps will not qualify."

A recent survey identified about 1,000 Air Force households servicewide that may qualify for the entitlement. This number is based on current household size and combined income.

Most of the anticipated participants are expected to come from overseas installations where food stamps are not available, Averill said.

Families on food stamps who qualify for FSSA will receive a monthly cash allowance equal to their food stamp amount. Those not on food stamps receive the amount of money required to bring their income to 130 percent of the federal poverty line, not to exceed \$500.

"Qualification is based on the (U.S. Department of Agriculture's) gross monthly income eligibility limits based on household size," Averill said. "However, unlike qualifying for food stamps, the FSSA includes housing allowances in the equation."

Also included in determining income eligibility are basic allowance for subsistence or cash equivalents for those living in government housing, and all bonuses, special and incentive

pays.

The overseas cost-of-living allowance, stateside COLA, family separation housing allowance, clothing allowances, and all travel- and transportation-related allowances and entitlements will not be included in gross income.

To apply for this nontaxable allowance, people must fill out an application and supply detailed information on household size and income to their commander. Averill said people may fill out the application online and e-mail it from the site directly to their commanders; however, they must provide all other information in person.

If approved, people must recertify annually, when promoted, when household income increases, when household size changes and when making a permanent change-of-station move.

Once a commander approves someone for FSSA, the paperwork is forwarded to the local finance office and shows up in the member's pay. Because commanders are the approval authorities, Averill said many would also require people to attend family support center financial management classes.

"It's important for families to weigh all their options," Averill said. Although people are permitted to collect the FSSA and food stamps at the same time, she said many people who are approved for FSSA will no longer be eligible or may receive reduced amounts for food stamps.

The FSSA may also affect household participation in the subsidized school lunch program, the Women, Infant and Children program, income-based day care programs and earned income tax credit.

More information and applications for FSSA can be found on the Air Force Crossroads Web site www.afcrossroads.com or at www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa.

Law holiday honors judicial heritage, children

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Tuesday marked the 30th anniversary of Law Day, a day set aside by Congress to recognize and honor the United States' rich heritage of liberty, justice and equality under the rule of law.

This year's Law Day theme is "Celebrate Your Freedom — Protecting the Best Interests of Our Children."

Born out of a custody dispute in a Philadelphia courtroom in 1813, the words "best interests of the child" have evolved into the principal standard that guides virtually all legal policy and decisions affecting children in the United States today. This year's celebration emphasizes the critical role the legal profession plays in protecting some of the most vulnerable members of society, children.

This year's theme presented a prime opportunity for the judge advocate gen-

eral's department to focus Law Day activities on the military child, said Maj. Gen. William Moorman, Air Force judge advocate general.

"Life as a military child is a never-ending adventure, and the challenges our children confront often differ widely from those faced by civilian children," Moorman said. "Frequent moves, lengthy separation from parents, deployment anxiety and life away from extended families are just a few of these unique challenges. We hope to broaden the awareness of the civilian communities regarding life as a military child, as well as the JAG department's unique practice of law, through this year's many planned Law Day activities."

Air Force legal offices worldwide will join thousands of national organizations, state and local attorney bar associations, businesses and schools in

conducting Law Day celebrations.

At Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas, the legal office, along with the county bar association, will sponsor elementary through high school-based programs including mock trials, art and essay contests, a luncheon and an awards ceremony for the students.

Judge advocates at Altus AFB, Okla., will also host high school mock trials and a poster contest, while the legal staff at the Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold AFB, Tenn., plans to host their 4th Annual Ask-A-Lawyer Program, brunch and a preventive law campaign.

Other installation staff judge advocates will mark the occasion organizing fun runs, volunteering at local community projects and engaging in panel discussions to promote responsible parenting in domestic relations cases.